

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 10431

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN, TH

SUBJ: CIVAIR: U.S.-THAI NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY. NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATED JUNE 25, 1974, WITHOUT AGREEMENT OR FIRM COMMITMENT TO MEET AGAIN. PRINCIPAL ISSUE WAS ROUTES ALTHOUGH LITTLE PROGRESS MADE ON CAPACITY WHILE TEXT NOT DISCUSSED.

2. IN JUNE 25 MEETING U.S. DEL TABLED CONCEPTUAL ROUTE PROPOSAL FOR THAILAND CONSISTING (1) NORTH PACIFIC ROUTE TO HONOLULU, LOS ANGELES OR SAN FRANCISCO OR SEATTLE OR NEW YORK, AND BEYOND TO CANADA AND EUROPE (2) CENTRAL PACIFIC ROUTE TO GUAM WITH DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT AND (3) SOUTH PACIFIC ROUTE TO PAGO PAGO WITH BEYONDS TO BE WORKED OUT. LA AND SF HAD MANDATORY STOP PROVISION.

3. THAI DEL OBJECTED VIGOROUSLY TO PROPOSAL STATING THAT IT WAS LESS THAN THEY NOW HAD. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WAS ELIMINATION OF SEPARATE NEW YORK ROUTE ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO OBJECTED TO BEYOND LIMITATIONS ON GUAM ROUTE. THAI DEL ALSO NOTED THAT THREE ROUTE FORMULATION DID NOT MEET OPTICAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. IN LENGTHY DEBATE THAI DEL PERSISTED IN DEMAND FOR
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COMPLETE OPTICAL RECIPROCITY AS WELL AS SOME POINTS THEY

COULD MAKE PRACTICAL USE OF IN NEAR TERM. U.S. DEL
POINTED OUT GREATER VALUE OF THAI ROUTES BECAUSE OF FIFTH
FREEDOM POTENTIAL. ALSO NOTED PRECEDENTAL DANGER FOR
USG IN MAKING LARGE UNWARRANTED ROUTE GRANTS TO THAILAND
WHICH WOULD STIMULATE EXPECTATIONS BY THIRD COUNTRIES.
THAI DEL WAS UNIMPRESSED AND SAID USG SIMPLY HAD TO UNDER-
STAND THAI POINT OF VIEW ON OPTICS. THEIR REFRAIN INCLUDED
ALL THE USUAL ARGUMENTS, I.E., THAILAND WAS SMALL COUNTRY
AND NEEDED HELP; THAI CARRIERS COULD NOT COMPETE WITH
LARGE U.S. CARRIERS; U.S. CARRIERS HAD GREAT ADVANTAGE
IN DEAL, ETC.

5. TWO DELS FINALLY AGREED TO TERMINATE DISCUSSIONS WITH
BOTH DELS REPORTING TO GOVERNMENTS. U.S. DEL SAID U.S.
PREPARED TO MEET AGAIN BUT THAI DEL WOULD MAKE NO COMMIT-
MENT STATING THAT MATTER HAD TO BE DECIDED BY GOVERNMENT.
U.S. DEL NOTED SHORT TIME TWO SIDES HAD TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS
AND EMPHASIZED THAT IN COMPLEX AVIATION AFFAIRS LONGER
TIME NEEDED TO EXAMINE ALL PROBLEMS. THAI DEL WOULD NOT
AGREE ON PRESS STATEMENT BUT SAID THEY HAD NO INTENTION
OF EXCITING THE PRESS. CONCLUSION OF TALKS CORDIAL. THAI
DEL MADE NO DIRECT THREATS BUT QUITE CLEARLY IS RESERVING
FREEDOM OF ACTION.

6. COMMENT: QUITE CLEAR PRINCIPAL ISSUE IS THAI NEED
FOR OPTICS. DOUBT THAT THEY WILL AGREE TO A DEAL WHICH THEY
CANNOT DEFEND AS GIVING THAILAND ALL RIGHTS U.S. HAS EVEN
IF THE LIKELIHOOD OF IMPLEMENTATION IS REMOTE. THERE IS
GOOD CHANCE THAT CAPACITY AND TEXTUAL PROBLEMS ARE
MANAGEABLE IF WE CAN WORK OUT ROUTE PROBLEM.

7. FOR BURCH CAB - REFERENCE FRIDAY TELECON WITH RECTOR -
GO REPEAT GO WITH AIR PACIFIC DECISION. NOTE THAT CIVAIR
DEL KUALA LUMPUR HOTEL IS HYATT REGENT.

8. EMBASSY PREPARING SEPARATE REPORT IN VIEW OF TERMIN-
ATION OF DISCUSSIONS AND DESIRABILITY THAT THEY BE RESUME.
KINTNER

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